UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.6/50/2
28 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 139

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Membership and functions of the Advisory Committee on the Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (originally called Advisory Committee on Technical Assistance to Promote the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law) was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, by resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, to advise the Secretary-General on the substantive aspects and on the implementation of the Programme. Paragraph 8 of that resolution provided, inter alia, that the Advisory Committee should be composed of 10 Member States to be appointed every three years by the General Assembly.

2. Also at its twentieth session, the General Assembly appointed, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the following States to serve on the Advisory Committee from 1 January 1966 to 31 December 1968: Afghanistan, Belgium, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Hungary, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America. 1/

3. At its twenty-third session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, appointed the same States, with the exception of Afghanistan, which was replaced by Iraq, to serve on the Advisory Committee from 1 January 1969 to 31 December 1971. 2/

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4. At its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, increased the membership of the Advisory Committee from 10 to 13 and extended the term of office from three to four years, appointing the following States to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1972 to 31 December 1975: Barbados, Belgium, Cyprus, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Hungary, Iraq, Mali, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America. 3/

5. The same members, with the exception of Belgium and Iraq, which were replaced by Italy and the Syrian Arab Republic, respectively, were appointed again at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1979. 4/

6. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, appointed the following 13 Member States to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1980 to 31 December 1983: Barbados, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Hungary, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 5/

7. The procedure consistently used by the General Assembly until its thirty-fourth session in the appointment of the members of the Advisory Committee was as follows: once the various regional groups had taken their respective decisions concerning the States candidates for membership in the Advisory Committee, the Sixth Committee would include in the draft resolution on the item concerning the Programme of Assistance a paragraph with its recommendations to the Assembly regarding the composition of the Advisory Committee for the following term.

8. However, at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 1983, as the decisions of several regional groups concerning the States candidates for membership in the Advisory Committee were not taken in time before the adoption by the Assembly of the resolution on the item concerning the Programme of Assistance, the Assembly decided only that 13 Member States be appointed as members of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1987 and entrusted its President to appoint the members of the Advisory Committee, 6/ in consultation with the regional groups. At its thirty-ninth session, the Assembly confirmed the nomination by its President of the following members of the Advisory Committee: Barbados, Cyprus, France, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Netherlands, Romania, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela. 7/

9. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly reverted to the original procedure described in paragraph 7 above, and, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, appointed the following 13 Member States to serve on the Committee from 1 January 1988 to 31 December 1991: Bangladesh, Cyprus, France, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Netherlands, Romania, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela and Zaire. 8/

10. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, increased the membership of the Advisory Committee from 13 to 25, appointing the following States to serve on the Committee from January 1992 to 31 December 1995: Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay. 9/

11. The mandate of the present membership of the Advisory Committee expires on 31 December 1995. It will therefore be necessary to appoint the new members of the Advisory Committee at the current session of the General Assembly.

12. Delegations may wish to follow the procedure used consistently over the past years, except in 1983, so that, following decisions by the various regional groups concerning the States candidates for membership in the Advisory Committee, the Sixth Committee would include in a draft resolution on the present agenda item a paragraph with its recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the composition of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999, assuming that the term of office remains four years as in the past.

Notes

1/ See decision following General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX).

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/7218, Other decisions, item 89, p. 91).

3/ See General Assembly resolution 2838 (XXVI), para. 9.

4/ See General Assembly resolution 3502 (XXX), para. 9.

5/ See General Assembly resolution 34/144, para. 11.

6/ See General Assembly resolution 38/129, para. 12.

7/ See General Assembly decision 39/308.

8/ See General Assembly resolution 42/148, para. 14.

9/ See General Assembly resolution 46/50, para. 18, note 5.